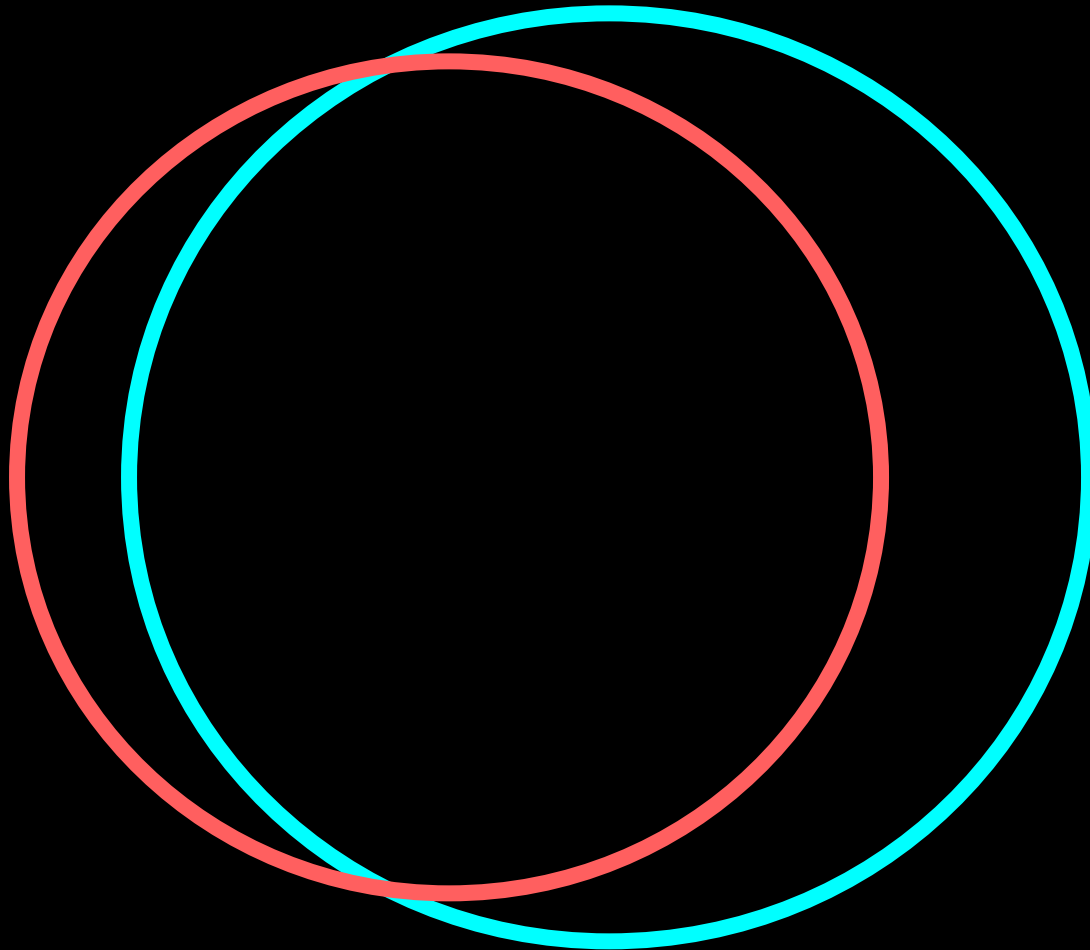


Deaths Due to HIV Infection

are not exactly the same as

Deaths of Persons with AIDS



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Deaths due to HIV infection, as reported on death certificates, (represented by the red circle on the left) are not exactly the same as deaths of persons with AIDS reported to AIDS surveillance systems of health departments (represented by the blue circle on the right). The crescent shape on the right side of this diagram includes the small percentage of persons with AIDS who die from causes unrelated to HIV infection (such as myocardial infarction, lung cancer, or motor vehicle accidents). Because of improved treatment, survival after diagnosis of AIDS has become longer, which may allow a greater percentage of persons with AIDS to die from other causes. In addition, this crescent includes some persons who die from HIV infection that is falsely not reported as the underlying cause of death on the death certificate.

The crescent shape on the left side of this diagram represents the small percentage of persons who do not meet the surveillance criteria for having AIDS among all the persons whose death certificates say they died from HIV infection. The AIDS case definition requires information documenting a low CD4 T-lymphocyte count or diagnosis of one of the 27 AIDS-defining illnesses.